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Hirotake Nozaki

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CUTLER, ALBERT H

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/758,178	Applicant(s) NOZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner ALBERT H. CUTLER	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 15-63, 72-75 and 77-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 16, 17, 19, 22, 29, 59 and 80-83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims withdrawn from consideration are 2,6-8,11,15,18,20,21,23-28,30-58,60-63,72-75 and 77-79.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to communication filed on September 19, 2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed September 19, 2008, with respect to claim 1, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. Applicant argues, with respect to claim 1, that Morimoto fails to disclose wherein when the judgment device judges that the detection result of the second detector was first detected prior to the detection result of the first detector, in the event that the first digital camera is instructed by the second digital camera when the first digital camera performs the normal camera operation, the first digital camera stores the instruction and makes it a rule to execute the instruction from the second digital camera after completion of the normal camera operation.
4. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Morimoto further teaches wherein when the judgment device judges that the detection result of the second detector was first detected prior to the detection result of the first detector (i.e. when the second camera is set as the master camera), in the event that the first digital camera (1) is instructed by the second digital camera (1') when the first digital camera (1) performs the normal camera operation (The examiner interprets "the normal camera operation" to be the operation prohibit performed by the slave camera in step 201 of figure 17A. The operation prohibit is a normal operation as it is normal for the slave camera (1) to have operations prohibited.), the first digital camera (1) stores the instruction and makes it a rule to execute the instruction from the second digital camera (1') after completion of the

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normal camera operation (After completion of the operation prohibit (i.e. the normal camera operation, 201, figure 17A), the first digital camera (1) stores and executes an instruction from the second digital camera (1') to change to normal LCD on mode, step 207, figure 17A.).

5. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 is maintained by the Examiner.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5, 16, 17, 19, 22, 29, 59 and 80-83 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant has requested rejoinder of all claims directed to non-elected species by virtue of their dependency from the independent claims. Currently all claims are not in condition for allowance, and MPEP § 821.04 states:

"The propriety of a restriction requirement should be reconsidered when all the claims directed to the elected invention are in condition for allowance, and the nonelected invention(s) should be considered for rejoinder."

8. Withdrawn claims will not be considered for rejoinder at this time.

Information Disclosure Statement

9. The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) mailed on September 11, 2008 was received and has been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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11. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

12. Claim 1 recites “in the event that the first digital camera is instructed by the second digital camera when the first digital camera performs **the normal camera operation**, the first digital camera stores the instruction and makes it a rule to execute the instruction from the second digital camera after completion of **the normal camera operation**”.

13. A “normal camera operation” is not defined previously in claim 1 and it is unclear what “the normal camera operation” is referring to. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

14. Claims 59, 1, 16, 22 and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities: Lack of clarity and precision.

15. Claim 59 recites “a digital camera which is **capable of** collaborating shooting”. It has been held that the recitation that an element is “capable of” performing a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. In re Hutchison, 69 USPQ 138. Appropriate correction is required.

16. Claims 1, 16, 22 and 29 also recite “capable of”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

17. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

18. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morimoto et al.(US 6,774,935).

Consider claim 1, Morimoto et al. teaches:

A digital camera system(figure 7) comprising:

a first digital camera(1); and

a second digital camera(1'), wherein

the first digital camera(1) and the second digital camera(1') are capable of communicating with each other(column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 28), and

the first digital camera(1) further comprising:

a first input/output device(213, figure 4) that sends/receives a data to and from the second digital camera(column 6, lines 12-15, column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 44);

a first plurality of operating devices(250, column 6, lines 27-31); and

a first detector(211) that detects an operation of any of the first plurality of operating devices(column 6, lines 27-55); and

the second digital camera(1') further comprising(The second digital camera is the same as the first digital camera. See figure 7, column 7, line 57 through column 11, line 45. As figure 4 shows the control system of the first digital camera(1), this is the same as the control system of the second digital camera(1'), since both cameras have the same features.):

a second input/output device(213, figure 4) that sends/receives a data to and from the first digital camera(column 6, lines 12-15, column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 44);

a second plurality of operating devices(250, column 6, lines 27-31);

a second detector(211) that detects an operation of any of the second plurality of operating devices(column 6, lines 27-55);

a judgment device(211) that judges which detection result was first detected, a detection result of the second detector or a detection result of the first detector input via the second input/output device, and a first controller(211) that controls the first digital camera based upon an operation of any of the second plurality of operating devices when the judgment device judges that the detection result of the second detector was detected prior to the detection result of the first detector(See figure 8, column 7, line 45 through column 8, line 13, column 6, lines 36-38. A master camera mode can be selected by either camera, thus making the other camera a slave camera. When the plurality of operating devices(250) including UP switch(6), DOWN switch(7) and shutter

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button(9) are used to select the master camera mode, the current camera is set as the master camera. The controller(211) of this camera is then used to control the slave camera, column 6, lines 36-38. Therefore, if the second camera(1') chooses the master camera mode first, the first camera(1) will become the slave, and will be controlled by the controller(211) of the second camera(1'). See also column 8, line 40 through column 9, line 42.);

wherein when the judgment device judges that the detection result of the second detector was first detected prior to the detection result of the first detector (i.e. when the second camera is set as the master camera), in the event that the first digital camera (1) is instructed by the second digital camera (1') when the first digital camera (1) performs the normal camera operation (The examiner interprets "the normal camera operation" to be the operation prohibit performed by the slave camera in step 201 of figure 17A. The operation prohibit is a normal operation as it is normal for the slave camera (1) to have operations prohibited.), the first digital camera (1) stores the instruction and makes it a rule to execute the instruction from the second digital camera (1') after completion of the normal camera operation (After completion of the operation prohibit (i.e. the normal camera operation, 201, figure 17A), the first digital camera (1) stores and executes an instruction from the second digital camera (1') to change to normal LCD on mode, step 207, figure 17A.).

Consider claim 3, and as applied to claim 1 above, Morimoto et al. further teach:

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the first digital camera(1) further includes a second controller(211) controlling the first digital camera(1) based upon an operation any of the first plurality of operating devices(250) and the second controller(211) is prohibited from controlling the first digital camera(1) while the first digital camera(1) is being controlled by the first controller(See column 8, lines 8-13, S201 figure 17).

Consider claim 4, and as applied to claim 1 above, Morimoto et al. further teach:

the first digital camera(1) further includes a second controller(211) controlling the first digital camera(1) based upon an operation of any of the first plurality of operating devices(250) and the first controller(211) is prohibited from controlling the first digital camera(1) while the first digital camera(1) is being controlled by the second controller(See column 8, lines 8-13, S201 figure 17. If the first camera(1) is the master camera, then the controller of the second camera(1') is prohibited from controlling the first camera.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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20. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148

USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining

obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

21. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhang et al. (US 6,864,911) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 6,670,984).

Consider claim 5, Zhang et al. teaches:

A digital camera(11, figures 12A and 12B) comprising:

a connector(35) that connects to another digital camera(13) via a communication line(33, column 7, line 7 through column 8, line 32);

a setting device that sets a given item or given value to take a photograph, and a setting instructor that instructs via the connector so as to set the identical given item or given value at the same time to the other digital camera based upon a setting result of the setting instructor(See column 10, lines 28-60. One of the given items or given values is the zoom magnification, column 10, lines 40-42.).

However, Zhang et al. does not explicitly teach that the digital camera further includes a camera judgment device that judges a type of the other digital camera and the setting instructor sends out to the other digital camera a compensation value

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corresponding to the given item or the given value based upon a judgment result of the camera judgment device.

Tanaka et al. similarly teaches of slave cameras (16, figure 8) controlled by an external device (i.e. a master device, camera control server, 56). See column 16, lines 39-47.

However, in addition to the teachings of Zhang et al., Tanaka et al. teaches that the master device further includes a camera judgment device that judges a type of the other digital camera and the setting instructor sends out to the other digital camera a compensation value corresponding to the given item or the given value based upon a judgment result of the camera judgment device (The master device (56) detects the type of other digital camera (column 5, lines 51-55, column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 12). Based on this camera judgment, the master device (56) uses a module to convert the control signal to one in the format matched to the specific camera, column 5, lines 51-56, column 8, line 62 through column 9, line 25. This changing of format corresponds to the claimed sending out to the other digital camera a compensation value, as the value is compensated by being placed in the appropriate format for the selected digital camera. A controlled zoom magnification corresponds to the "given item or the given value", column 7, lines 38-42, column 8, line 17 through column 9, line 25.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the digital camera (i.e. master device) taught by Zhang et al. include a camera judgment device that judges a type of the other digital camera and the setting instructor sends out to the other digital camera a compensation

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value corresponding to the given item or the given value based upon a judgment result of the camera judgment device as taught by Tanaka et al. for the benefit of improving the versatility of the digital camera by enabling the connection to a large variety of digital cameras without worrying about the difference in type of cameras connected thereto (Tanaka et al., column 1, lines 43-50).

22. Claims 16, 17, 19, 22 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morimoto et al. (US 6,774,935) in view of Niikawa (US 6,819,355).

Consider claim 16, Morimoto et al. teaches:

A digital camera system (figure 7) comprising:

a master digital camera(1); and

a slave digital camera(1'), wherein

the master digital camera(1) and the slave digital camera(1') are capable of communicating with each other (column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 28), and

the master digital camera(1) further comprising:

a connector (13B) that connects to another digital camera (1') via a communication line (CBL, column 7, lines 61-65).

an input device(213, figure 4) that inputs camera information about the other digital camera via a connector (See column 6, lines 12-15, column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 44. See also column 8, lines 53-62. The images displayed on the slave

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camera (i.e. information about the other digital camera) are displayed on the master camera in the monitor remote control mode.); and

a display device (LCD, 10, figure 2, figure 4) that displays the camera information (The images displayed on the slave camera (i.e. information about the other digital camera) are displayed on the master camera in the monitor remote control mode, column 8, lines 53-62.);

the slave digital camera (1') further comprising;

a connector (13A) that connects to another digital camera (1) via a communication line (CBL, column 7, lines 61-65);

an input device(213, figure 4) that inputs camera information about the other digital camera via a connector(See column 6, lines 12-15, column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 44. See also column 9, lines 28-33. The images displayed on the master camera (i.e. information about the other digital camera) are displayed on the slave camera in the monitor mode.).

a display device (LCD, 10, figure 2, figure 4) that displays the camera information (The images displayed on the master camera (i.e. information about the other digital camera) are displayed on the slave camera in the monitor mode, column 9, lines 28-33.);

Morimoto et al. also teaches of a collaborating work mode (monitor remote control mode, column 8, lines 53-62), and that the display (10) of the master digital camera (1) is turned on in the collaborating work mode (column 8, lines 53-62).

However, Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach that in the collaborating work mode the display of the slave digital camera is turned off.

Niikawa similarly teaches of a slave camera (figure 4, 1, figure 5) with a connector (communication I/F, 213) that connects to a master device (PC, 19, figure 4, 1000, figure 5), column 7, lines 6-25.

However, in addition to the teachings of Morimoto et al., Niikawa teaches that the slave camera (1) has its display turned off when performing instructions from the master device (column 9, lines 10-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the display of the slave camera taught by Morimoto et al. turned off as taught by Niikawa in the collaborating work mode for the benefit of saving power (Niikawa, column 8, lines 22-26).

Consider claim 17, and as applied to claim 16 above, Morimoto et al. further teaches:

the camera information is information that the other digital camera requires so as to take and store a photograph of a subject(The information is the images stored on the display (10) of the other digital camera, column 8, lines 53-62, column 9, lines 28-33. These are images are captured by a CCD, column 3, lines 16-32. Image signals output from a CCD comprise information that the other digital camera requires so as to take and store a photograph of a subject.).

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Consider claim 19, and as applied to claim 16 above, Morimoto et al. further teaches:

the camera information is information in order for the digital camera to recognize a going status quo of the another digital camera(i.e. to know what the other digital camera is looking at, column 9, lines 28-33, column 8, lines 53-62).).

Consider claim 22, Morimoto et al. teach:

A digital camera system (figure 7, figure 5, figure 4) comprising:

a master digital camera(1); and

a slave digital camera(1'), wherein

the master digital camera(1) and the slave digital camera(1') are capable of communicating with each other(column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 28);

the master digital camera(1) further comprising:

a connector (13B) that connects to another digital camera(1') via a communication line(CBL, column 7, lines 61-65);

a display device(10, figure 4) that displays an image data(column 3, lines 56-60); and

a controller(211) that controls so as to let a plurality of image data including an image data stored into the other digital camera(1') appear in given order on the display device when connecting to the other digital camera via the connector(See column 8, lines 53-62, figures 13C and 13D.);

the slave digital camera (1') further comprising;

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a connector (13A) that connects to another digital camera (1) via a communication line (CBL, column 7, lines 61-65);

a display device (LCD, 10, figure 2, figure 4) that displays an image data (column 3, lines 56-60);

Morimoto et al. also teaches of a collaborating work mode (monitor remote control mode, column 8, lines 53-62), and that the display (10) of the master digital camera (1) is turned on in the collaborating work mode (column 8, lines 53-62).

However, Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach that in the collaborating work mode the display of the slave digital camera is turned off.

Niikawa similarly teaches of a slave camera (figure 4, 1, figure 5) with a connector (communication I/F, 213) that connects to a master device (PC, 19, figure 4, 1000, figure 5), column 7, lines 6-25.

However, in addition to the teachings of Morimoto et al., Niikawa teaches that the slave camera (1) has its display turned off when performing instructions from the master device (column 9, lines 10-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the display of the slave camera taught by Morimoto et al. turned off as taught by Niikawa in the collaborating work mode for the benefit of saving power (Niikawa, column 8, lines 22-26).

Consider claim 29, Morimoto et al. teach:

A digital camera system (figure 7, figure 5, figure 4) comprising:

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a master digital camera(1); and

a slave digital camera(1'), wherein

the master digital camera(1) and the slave digital camera(1') are capable of communicating with each other(column 7, line 57 through column 8, line 28);

the master digital camera(1) further comprising:

a connector (13B) that connects to another digital camera(1') via a communication line(see figure 7, column 7, lines 57-65);

a display device(10, figure 4) that displays an image data when connecting other digital camera via the connector(see figures 13-15);

a display instructor that instructs to display an image data stored into the other digital camera on the display device, and a transfer instructor that instructs the other digital camera to transfer an image data used for a display having a given number of pixels(See column 8, lines 53-62, column 11, lines 7-19. If the camera is in the "monitor remote control mode", then the image stored in the other camera is displayed on both displays, see figures 13C and 13D. The image data in the other camera is transferred to the first camera, column 11, lines 16-19. It is inherent that the display has a given number of pixels as LCD displays are comprised of pixels.);

the slave digital camera (1') further comprising;

a connector (13A) that connects to another digital camera (1) via a communication line (CBL, column 7, lines 61-65);

a display device (LCD, 10, figure 2, figure 4) that displays an image data when connecting to another digital camera (1) via the connector (column 3, lines 56-60); and

a display instructor that instructs to display an image data stored into the other digital camera on the display device (See column 8, lines 53-62, column 11, lines 7-19. If the master camera is in the “monitor remote control mode”, then the image stored in the other camera is displayed on both displays, see figures 13C and 13D. The image data in the slave camera is transferred to the master camera, column 11, lines 16-19. As the image data is displayed in each camera, it is also stored in each camera.);

Morimoto et al. also teaches of a collaborating work mode (monitor remote control mode, column 8, lines 53-62), and that the display (10) of the master digital camera (1) is turned on in the collaborating work mode (column 8, lines 53-62).

However, Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach that in the collaborating work mode the display of the slave digital camera is turned off.

Niikawa similarly teaches of a slave camera (figure 4, 1, figure 5) with a connector (communication I/F, 213) that connects to a master device (PC, 19, figure 4, 1000, figure 5), column 7, lines 6-25.

However, in addition to the teachings of Morimoto et al., Niikawa teaches that the slave camera (1) has its display turned off when performing instructions from the master device (column 9, lines 10-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the display of the slave camera taught by Morimoto et al. turned off as taught by Niikawa in the collaborating work mode for the benefit of saving power (Niikawa, column 8, lines 22-26).

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23. Claims 59 and 80-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morimoto et al. (US 6,774,935) in view of Anderson et al. (US 5,861,918) and Yamasaki et al. (US 2003/0011683).

Consider claim 59, Morimoto et al. teaches:

A digital camera (1, figure 7) which is capable of collaborating shooting that is collaborated to shoot with another digital camera (1', figure 7) connected via a communication line (CBL, figure 7) and normal shooting that is not collaborated to shoot with another digital camera (The digital camera is capable of collaborating shooting in a monitor remote control mode, column 8, lines 53-62. The digital camera (1) is considered to be in a normal mode when not connected to the other digital camera (1').) comprising:

a connector (13B) that connects to another digital camera (1') via a communication line (CBL, see figure 7, column 7, lines 57-65);

an imaging element (CCD, 303, figure 4) that shoots object image and output image data (column 4, lines 40-46);

Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach a folder name creator or a controller that creates a first image storing folder.

Anderson et al. similarly teaches a camera (imaging device, 114, figures 1 and 2) with an imaging element (image sensor, 224) and a connector (interface, 232) for connecting to an external device (computer, 118) via a communication line (bus, 116), column 3, lines 1-32.

However, in addition to the teachings of Morimoto et al., Anderson et al. teaches a folder name creator that creates a folder name of a first image data storing folder, according to a first camera information about the digital camera (See figures 5 and 7A, column 5, lines 44-52, column 6, lines 45-65. A folder name is created using the serial number (i.e. a first camera information) of the digital camera.) to differentiate a first image data which is output from the image element and a second image data in normal shooting which is output by the image element (See figure 7. First, second, third, etc. image data output from the image element is stored in the folder having the serial number of the camera containing the imaging element.); and

a controller that creates a first image data storing folder which is named the folder name in the storage medium (See figures 7A and 7B, column 5, lines 48-52. A data storing folder is named the folder name in a removable media such as the flash disk of figure 7A.), stores both the first image data which is output from the image element and the first image data which is output from another digital camera (The controller stores first image data, such as shown in figure 7B, in the first folder (i.e. "C1523460") of figure 7A, and first image data output from another digital camera in a second folder (i.e. "C9347825") of figure 7A.), and stores only the second image data which is output from the image element in normal shooting (Only the second image data taken by the element of camera C1523460 is stored in the first folder.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a folder name creator for naming folders based upon camera information as taught by Anderson et al. in the camera taught by Morimoto

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et al. for the benefit of enabling the storage of images taken by multiple camera while avoiding naming conflicts (Anderson et al., column 2, lines 26-32).

However, the combination of Morimoto et al. and Anderson et al. does not explicitly teach that the folder name is created based on a second camera information about the other digital camera.

Yamasaki et al. similarly teaches of two digital cameras (10, 10') connected via a communication line (3, see figure 1). Yamasaki et al. also similarly teaches that the cameras include recording media (information recording medium, 15, figure 1).

However, in addition to the teachings of the combination of Morimoto et al. and Anderson et al., Yamasaki et al. teaches that a second camera information about another camera is stored in the folder information (See 2002, figure 20, paragraphs 0148 and 0149. Folder data (2002) includes an original address which is inherent to the original digital camera with which the image data was taken.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include information about the other digital camera as taught by Yamasaki et al. in the name of the folder taught by the combination of Morimoto et al. and Anderson et al. for the benefit of maintaining information about the origin of stored images even when the images are transmitted from another camera (Yamasaki et al., paragraph 0149).

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Consider claim 80, and as applied to claim 59 above, the combination of Morimoto et al. and Anderson et al. does not explicitly teach that the digital camera transmit the folder name to the other digital camera.

However, Yamasaki et al. teaches that the digital camera transmits the folder name to the other digital camera (See figure 19, paragraphs 0141-0144).

Consider claim 81, and as applied to claim 59 above, Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach a folder name creator.

However, Anderson et al. further teaches that the folder name creator creates a part of the file name of the first image data; and wherein the controller name the file name created to the first image data and stores the first image data to the first image data storing folder (A name unique to the digital camera is chosen for the image file name, column 6, lines 27-40).

Consider claim 82, and as applied to claim 81 above, the combination of Morimoto et al. and Anderson et al. does not explicitly teach a folder name creator.

However, Yamasaki et al. teaches the digital camera transmit the part of the file name of the first image data to the other digital camera (See figure 19, paragraphs 0141-0144).

Consider claim 83, and as applied to claim 59 above, Morimoto et al. does not explicitly teach a folder name creator.

However, Anderson et al. further teaches that the first camera information includes at least one of a serial number (column 5, lines 44-47).

Conclusion

24. Any objections to the claims previously made by the Examiner are hereby removed in view of Applicant's response.

25. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALBERT H. CUTLER whose telephone number is (571)270-1460. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu (9:00-5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC

/Sinh N Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622